

Section 3

Working in partnership



Section 3

Working in partnership

Community planning

Integrated children's services planning operates as part of the wider community planning process in Renfrewshire. Renfrewshire community planning structures were revised in 2004.

This integrated children's services plan is informed by Renfrewshire's Community Plan 2000–2010, and the need to modernise the way we work. Throughout the plan, there are examples of how we, as a partnership, will contribute to the achievement of our community planning partnership's guiding principles and key themes of:

Social inclusion by:

- ❖ promoting and encouraging equal opportunities;
- ❖ involving local people;
- ❖ focusing our efforts and resources on areas and groups where exclusion is greatest; and
- ❖ ensuring our day-to-day activities prevent and tackle exclusion.

Modernising government by:

- ❖ improving partnership working and its impact;
- ❖ bringing together and co-ordinating our services and resources for the benefit of local people;
- ❖ improving access to information and services; and
- ❖ responding to the needs and views of individuals and communities.

Sustainable development by:

- ❖ raising awareness and understanding of sustainable development among partners and the wider public;
- ❖ examining the impact of major strategies and investment on sustainable development; and
- ❖ trying out new ways of working and new technologies.

Renfrewshire's Regeneration Outcome Agreement (ROA) and Integrated Children's Services

Renfrewshire Community Planning Partnership's Regeneration Outcome Agreement (ROA) is designed to facilitate the integration of Social Inclusion Partnership areas (SIP) into the community planning process. The ROA targets Community Regeneration Funding (CRF) at the most deprived areas in Renfrewshire, as identified by the Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation 2004.

These areas replace the former SIP areas as the designated target areas for funding. The ROA is designed to "close the opportunity gap" and meet the Scottish Executive's national regeneration priorities.

In Renfrewshire CRF funding will be targeted at the 10% most deprived data zones, with the exception of the national regeneration priority "getting people back into work" which will be targeted more broadly at the 15% most deprived data zones. (A datazone is a small geographic unit, consisting of between 500 and 1000 people).

The ROA will play a key role in delivering the Scottish Executive's objective of:



"regenerating the most disadvantaged neighbourhoods, so that people living there can take advantage of job opportunities and improve their quality of life".

Renfrewshire community planning partnership, through its ROA, is charged with delivering a number of targets which relate directly to children's services. These include:

- ❖ by 2007, ensure that at least 50% of all "looked after" young people leaving care have entered education, employment or training;
- ❖ reduce the proportion of 16-19 year olds who are not in education, training or employment by 2008;
- ❖ by 2008, ensure that children and young people who need it have an integrated package of appropriate health, care and education support; and
- ❖ increase the average tariff score of the lowest attaining 20% of S4 pupils by 5% by 2008.

Renfrewshire's ROA explains how we plan to meet the national targets. Particular focus has been directed to those areas identified

as being the most significant causes of deprivation in Renfrewshire, principally low levels of household income, employment and health.

Renfrewshire's Joint Health Improvement Plan 2005-08

Renfrewshire's joint health improvement plan 2005/08 has been produced through our community planning arrangements, which include voluntary organisations and community representatives. On the basis of Renfrewshire's health profile and national policy initiatives, partners have identified the following key priorities for action for 2005-08 to improve the development and wellbeing of children:

- ❖ reducing smoking, particularly among young people and pregnant women;
- ❖ reducing alcohol consumption among young people;
- ❖ reducing illegal drug use;
- ❖ increasing levels of physical activity and exercise;
- ❖ promoting healthier eating habits;

- ❖ increasing the number of women breastfeeding;
- ❖ improving sexual health and wellbeing;
- ❖ improving infant and maternal health;
- ❖ improving child dental health; and
- ❖ reducing accidents, particularly at home and on the road.

Integrated Children's Services Planning

Appendix 1 shows our joint planning structure for children's services in Renfrewshire which is part of the community planning process. This was revised in October 2003. The current arrangements comprise 3 key levels of activity:

- ❖ a high level **steering group** involving senior officers from Renfrewshire Council, NHS Argyll & Clyde, Strathclyde Police, Scottish Children's Reporter Administration (SCRA) and the voluntary sector. The group's role is to establish a clear strategic direction for children's services, agree joint priorities, oversee the development and implementation of the integrated children's services



Section 3

Working in partnership

plan and agree deployment of aligned funds including Changing Children's Services Fund. The steering group reports to the Renfrewshire community plan management group;

- ❖ a **management group** of senior practitioners and service managers from relevant statutory and voluntary agencies whose remit is to promote the integration agenda for children's services and prepare and monitor the implementation of the children's services plan. The management group will be a key driver in leading operational change as the children's services plan rolls out over the next 3 years.

The activities of the management group are closely linked to and informed by the work of the Renfrewshire child protection committee and Renfrewshire youth crime team; and

- ❖ **locality groups** which are part of existing joint implementation groups (e.g. area family support team steering groups) and community planning structures (i.e. 16 learning neighbourhoods, 6 community planning fora).

The role of these locality groups in respect of integrated children's services planning is to:

- oversee implementation of the integration agenda at a local level;
- mobilise existing resources for local integrated service initiatives;
- identify service gaps for consideration by the joint management group; and
- consult at locality level on services and proposed developments.

Locality groups are still at an early stage of development in line with the progress of community planning and learning neighbourhood arrangements.

Improving services through sharing information

Improving information sharing and communications is the cornerstone of integrated services. Work is underway at national level to define the requirements of an integrated children's services record (ICSR) and an integrated assessment framework. At local level, each agency has

its own information management and technology programmes that will provide the foundation for adopting national standards and guidance as these emerge. Our task for the next three years is to bring together learning and resources into a coherent set of programmes that will collectively ensure the right information is available at the right time, both at the front line and for service planning and performance management.

It is important to see technology as the enabler of change rather than the solution. Developing the capacity to share information between agencies and make the best use of all partners' technology is a priority for us during the life of this plan. To achieve this, we are depending on the outcome of the national eCare Programme. Local partners submitted a substantial eCare bid to the Modernising Government Fund Round 3, but all such bids were rejected pending an assessment and restructuring of the eCare Programme. Consequently, the level of funding available for IT and business change initiatives is unknown. At this time, information and guidance is awaited from the Scottish Executive on the role of the national programme and resources for the development of information sharing between local agencies.



However, good joint working is evident on information management and technology through the existing eCare project for adults, and we intend to exploit and develop this for children's services. Initially the focus for our joint work will be improving systems for child protection and the care of Looked After children. A working group including social work, education and housing services has been established locally to examine options for a shared electronic case management system. All partners will be involved as appropriate throughout the life of the project.

Some major projects which we will undertake as a partnership are listed below:

- ❖ extending and reviewing social work information systems (SWIFT) and modules;
- ❖ developing formal protocols for information sharing between agencies;
- ❖ exploring options for sharing information and access to databases between different services and agencies;
- ❖ developing a shared electronic children's records management system;

- ❖ reviewing and developing the use of electronic communications among partners;
- ❖ incorporating national programme work on the integrated children services record (ICSR) and integrated assessment framework in local standards and guidance; and
- ❖ identifying management information requirements for local analysis from all relevant systems to improve service planning and performance assessment.

Annual statement of educational improvement objectives

The service plan of Education and Leisure Services department is constructed around the education improvement objectives identified by the service and service users. A summary statement of improvement objectives is included in appendix 2.

